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NSC BRIEFING

14 January 1954

FANFANI'S EFFORT TO FORM A  
NEW ITALIAN CABINET

- I. On 12 January Italian President Einaudi asked the Christian Democratic leader Amintore Fanfani to form a new government.
- II. Fanfani since 1951 has been leader of the party's reform-minded left wing.
  - A. Born in 1908 in central Italy, he is a former professor of economic history, in politics since the war.
  - B. Served as Labor Minister and Agriculture Minister under De Gasperi, Interior Minister under Pella.
    1. Favored cheap housing projects, land reform, international cooperation especially in labor and agriculture.

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C. Italian delegate to international bodies such as the International Labor Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the proposed "Green Pool" or Western European agriculture cooperative similar to the Coal-Steel Community.

1. In a recent conversation with Ambassador Luce, he impressed her as favorable to EDC but apprehensive of pushing it at this time.

D. Popular, an excellent speaker, and politically deft, he is generally considered a less ardent supporter of American-sponsored policies than De Gasperi.

III. Fanfani has announced his intention to bring into his cabinet representatives of the Monarchists and of the three minor center parties allied with the Christian Democrats in the June elections (i.e., the Liberals, Republicans, and Democratic Socialists).

IV. The disparate nature of these parties will make it difficult to form and gain parliamentary approval for a cabinet.

A. Controversy over Fanfani's cabinet nominees rather than over his prospective policies will present the chief immediate obstacle.

B. Should he succeed in forming a government, disagreements over policy are likely to make its life rough and brief.

V. It is unlikely that his government

would initiate any major legislation

because of:

A. The conflicting nature of the  
various party objectives.

B. Christian Democratic strategy:

The party is reported to desire  
only a caretaker government until  
it can prepare for new elections  
some months hence.

VI. Nevertheless, Fanfani's prospects are

rated better than Pella's would be,

because he has broader support in

the Christian Democratic Party.